

RIDE 94 NEWS

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Holiday Spending Advice From Arizona State Treasurer Dean Martin

State Treasurer Dean Martin offers tips on smart holiday financial management & avoiding debt as the upcoming holiday season approaches.

1. Make a budget and stick to it.

- Place a spending limit for each person on your list.
- Keep in mind even the small expenses associated with the holidays, including postage, entertaining, & gas prices!

2. Avoid the emotion explosion.

- It's only natural to want to shower your loved ones – especially the little ones – with gifts to show them how much you care - but this will bust your budget with overspending.
- Quality over quantity; avoid the impulse purchases.
- How many parents spend \$100 on a gadget only to watch the kids play with the \$1 box it came in?

3. Increase your income before increasing your spending.

- Retail outlets hire more part-time positions during this time of year.
- Consider taking up a part-time job to increase your income & meet your spending needs & wishes.

4. Don't Procrastinate.

- Putting off holiday shopping may force you to break your budget as you will buy anything - & everything - at the last moment.
- You could wind up paying more in shipping costs than the gift itself!

5. Pay cash –“No Payments, No Interest” can be a problem.

- Avoid credit card purchases unless you know you can pay off the full balance of your bill when all holiday shopping is completed.
- Stay away from buying into deferred payment plans, unless you are confident you can pay the purchase off before the deadline.

6. Don't open new credit.

- Many retail & department stores offer discounts when you open a new credit card, but the one-time-only discount may not be worth having another credit card on your credit rating.

7. Pass on extended warranties.

- The cost of a repair or replacement over time may be the same as buying an extended warranty plan.

8. Open a holiday savings account.

- Set up a separate savings account just for your holiday shopping so it can accrue interest during the year.
- Make a small deposit into it each month, & you'll be surprised how much “extra” money you have for the holidays next year!

9. Pay your bills on time!

- This is the best gift you can give yourself for the holidays & all year round.

- If you are late on payments, your interest rate – & future payments - might go up.
- When you miss just one payment, regardless of the dollar amount, it takes 24 months to restore your credit.

10. Get a FREE credit report.

- The info on this report determines the interest rates that credit card companies will charge!
- Visit annualcreditreport.com to request a FREE credit report once every 12 months from each of the nationwide consumer credit reporting companies: Equifax, Experian & TransUnion.
- Make sure you haven't been a victim of identity theft & that your info is correct.

Treasurer Martin manages more than \$12 billion in fixed income & equity investments, including Local Government Investment Pools & State Land Trust Endowment Funds. Last fiscal year, the Treasurer's Office made taxpayers over \$730 million dollars. During the 1st quarter of this fiscal year, the Treasurer's Office distributed earnings for taxpayers of \$143 million, a 32.6% increase over the same period last year under the previous administration.

As a statewide constitutional officer, Treasurer Martin serves as the state's Chief Financial Officer, 3rd in line of succession to the Governor, responsible for the prudent custody & management of taxpayer monies.